

Applic. No. 10/656,601  
Amdt. dated November 7, 2005  
Reply to Office action of August 5, 2005

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions,  
and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-21 (cancelled).

Claim 22 (currently amended): A plug-in electronic module for  
plugging into a holding structure having a coupling partner  
with an electrical contact, the electronic module comprising:

a housing;

an electronic component configured in said housing;

at least one external electrical contact connected to said  
electronic component, said external contact being fixed  
relative to said housing, said external electrical contact  
configured for contacting the electrical contact on the  
coupling partner during a plug-in operation in which the  
electronic module is plugged into the holding structure; and

a mechanical protective device for protecting said electrical  
contact from mechanical contact when the electronic module is  
not plugged into the holding structure, said protective device

Applic. No. 10/656,601

Amdt. dated November 7, 2005

Reply to Office action of August 5, 2005

exposing said electrical contact when the electronic module is plugged into the holding structure such that said electrical contact comes into contact with the electrical contact on the coupling partner;

said protective device including a moving protective element being displaceable relative to said housing and being configured for moving between a first position and a second position;

said electrical contact being protected when said moving protective element is in said first position;

said electrical contact being exposed when said moving protective element is in said second position;

said moving protective element moving from said first position to said second position when the electronic module is plugged into the holding structure; and

at least one spring element for holding said moving protective element in said first position in an unplugged state, said spring element allowing said protective element to move into said second position counter to a spring force during said plug-in operation.

Applic. No. 10/656,601  
Amdt. dated November 7, 2005  
Reply to Office action of August 5, 2005

Claims 23 and 24 (cancelled).

Claim 25 (currently amended): The module according to claim  
[[24]] 22, wherein said protective element is a flat  
protective tongue that is displaceable longitudinally relative  
to said housing.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The module according to claim  
25, ~~further comprising~~ wherein

~~at least one spring element for holding said moving protective  
element in said first position in an unplugged state,~~

~~said spring element allowing said protective element to move  
into said second position counter to a spring force during  
said plug in operation; and~~

at least part of said protective tongue ~~having~~ has a  
circulatory concave profile for mechanically guiding said  
spring element on said protective tongue.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The module according to claim  
[[23]] 22, further comprising:

Applic. No. 10/656,601

Amdt. dated November 7, 2005

Reply to Office action of August 5, 2005

at least one spring element for holding said moving protective element in said first position in an unplugged state;

said spring element allowing said protective element to move into said second position counter to a spring force during said plug-in operation.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The module according to claim 27, wherein said spring element is formed integral with said housing.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The module according to claim 27, wherein spring element is a separate part that is mounted on said housing or inserted into said housing.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The module according to claim [[23]] 22, wherein said moving protective element includes a stop element for mechanically contacting the coupling partner during said plug-in operation such that said moving protective element is moved into said second position and said electrical contact is exposed.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The module according to claim 30, wherein:

Applic. No. 10/656,601

Amdt. dated November 7, 2005

Reply to Office action of August 5, 2005

said moving protective element includes an end with an angled-away part forming said stop element; and

said angled away part is a first part of said moving protective element touched by the holding structure during said plug-in operation.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The module according to claim [[23]] 22, wherein said moving protective element is moveable into itself and has an end connected firmly to said housing.

Claim 33 (currently amended): ~~The module according to claim 32, wherein~~

A plug-in electronic module for plugging into a holding structure having a coupling partner with an electrical contact, the electronic module comprising:

a housing;

an electronic component configured in said housing;

at least one external electrical contact connected to said electronic component, said external electrical contact configured for contacting the electrical contact on the

Applic. No. 10/656,601

Amdt. dated November 7, 2005

Reply to Office action of August 5, 2005

coupling partner during a plug-in operation in which the electronic module is plugged into the holding structure; and

a mechanical protective device for protecting said electrical contact from mechanical contact when the electronic module is not plugged into the holding structure, said protective device exposing said electrical contact when the electronic module is plugged into the holding structure such that said electrical contact comes into contact with the electrical contact on the coupling partner;

said protective device including a moving protective element configured for moving between a first position and a second position, said moving protective element being moveable into itself and having an end connected firmly to said housing, and said moving protective element [[is]] being a foldable element that folds together during said plug-in operation to expose said electrical contact;

said electrical contact being protected when said moving protective element is in said first position;

said electrical contact being exposed when said moving protective element is in said second position; and

Applic. No. 10/656,601  
Amdt. dated November 7, 2005  
Reply to Office action of August 5, 2005

said moving protective element moving from said first position  
to said second position when the electronic module is plugged  
into the holding structure.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The module according to  
claim 33, wherein:

said foldable element includes a plurality of bars running  
transversely with respect to a longitudinal direction of the  
module;

said plurality of bars define a longitudinal side; and

said plurality of bars are connected together for enabling  
tilting along said longitudinal side.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The module according to  
claim 33, wherein said moving protective element is a roll-up  
part configured for rolling up during said plug-in operation  
to expose said electrical contact.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The module according to claim  
[[23]] 22, wherein said moving protective element is made of  
an electrically conductive material.

Applic. No. 10/656,601

Amdt. dated November 7, 2005

Reply to Office action of August 5, 2005

Claim 37 (currently amended): The module according to claim  
[[23]] 22, wherein said moving protective element is made of  
an insulating material.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The module according to claim  
[[23]] 22, wherein said moving protective element is made of a  
material that absorbs electromagnetic waves.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The module according to claim  
[[23]] 22, wherein said moving protective element is spaced  
apart from said electrical contact in a first position.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The module according to  
claim 22, wherein said electronic component includes an  
optoelectronic transmitter, an optoelectronic receiver, or an  
optoelectronic transceiver.

Claim 41 (previously presented): A method for connecting an  
electronic module to a holding structure for holding the  
electronic module, the method which comprises:

providing the electronic module with an electronic component  
and at least one external electrical contact connected to the  
electronic component;



Applic. No. 10/656,601

Amdt. dated November 7, 2005

Reply to Office action of August 5, 2005

providing the holding structure with a coupling partner having  
at least one electrical contact;

providing the electronic module with a mechanical protective  
device having a moving protective element that protects the  
external electrical contact from mechanical contact when the  
electronic module is not inserted into the holding structure;  
and

moving the moving protective element relative to the external  
electrical contact when the electric module is plugged into  
the holding structure such that the external electrical  
contact is exposed and contacts the electrical contact on the  
coupling partner.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The method according to  
claim 41, which further comprises moving the moving protective  
element relative to at least one spring element interacting  
with the protective element during a plug-in operation.